

MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF CHAIRPERSONS  
OCTOBER 20, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Schmidt, Stebbins, Bates, Pritchard

Staff: Norris, Reiner, Gilot

Acting Chairperson Pritchard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF July 21, 2014

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 21, 2014 as written.

Motion made by Stebbins, seconded by Pritchard. Motion passed 3-0-1, 1 abstention (Bates).

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Mystic Streetscape Phase III – Potential Projects

Norris said there will be some funds left from the LOCIP matching funds from Phases I and II. This will allow approximately \$400,000-\$500,000 for construction and design. Norris anticipates at this time there will be approximately \$250,000-\$300,000 for construction. Additional funding matching should the projects warrant same, would have to be requested from the Town Council. Some ideas being considered for the project are:

- Build a sidewalk on river side of Gravel Street, regrading to eliminate flooding north of the pump station;
- Locate one or two of the old gears from the bascule bridge on a parklet;
- Complete sidewalks up to High Street along Noank Road.
- Provide furnishings (trash receptacles) and wayfinding signs downtown.
- Install a new railing on Route 1 north of Chelsea Groton (state property). The concrete cap would need to be replaced.

These are some potential ideas. A public hearing would likely be held to determine the final project. The Town is looking for any suggestions or ideas from the commissions. Harbor Commission would like to see a floating dock with public access behind the pump station. The location of a sidewalk and the potential for dock was discussed.

2. Acquisition of USS GROTON Sail

Norris said that a steering committee has been formed, which includes former mayors, to evaluate relocating the USS GROTON (SSN-694) sail in Groton. The cost of the transportation alone would be approximately \$100,000 – \$150,000. There are about 25 potential sites being considered for the location. Site size and permitting requirements need to be evaluated. The Fundraising Committee will be meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Norris said any comments or suggestions can be sent to him.

3. 2015 Meeting Schedule

Motion to adopt the 2015 meeting schedule as presented made by Pritchard, seconded by Stebbins. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Identification of Topics for Discussion

The Committee identified the following topics for discussion at the next meeting.

- Update of Board of Education school locations
- Mystic Streetscape Phase III
- Acquisition of USS GROTON Sail
- Merritt property ball field updates
- Mystic Art Association – parking redesign – construction report

V. OLD BUSINESS

Schmidt said the Town Council will be voting on the Noank School tomorrow night. The school property is public land and will continue to be Town-owned. The Noank Schools Public Gardens Task Force was developed and the Town will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, with two years to develop a community garden concept. The building is scheduled to be demolished at the end of November.

Reiner stated to the Committee that he will be attending the national APA Conference April 20<sup>th</sup> and would like to move the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on the previously adopted 2015 schedule to April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Pritchard moved to amend the 2015 meeting schedule as requested. Motion was seconded by Bates, so voted unanimously.

VI. REPORT OF CHAIRPERSONS

Bates said the dredging project of the Mystic River will commence mid-November. A pre-construction meeting was held last Friday, and they are still resolving issues.

Bates said he was concerned with the fact that DPW was involved in the process of replacing the Town dock without any input from the people who use the dock.

Bates said the Harbor Management Commission would like to facilitate the completion of the Harbor Management Plan.

VII. REPORT OF STAFF

Norris said The Board of Education has developed educational specs on middle schools. They prefer one middle school near the high school campus. The consultant, Milone & MacBroom, is developing options.

Reiner provided brief updates on some initiatives:

- Process mapping

- Handbook
- Plan of Conservation & Development
- Town-wide market analysis
- Audit of the Town's current zoning process

Reiner said he will be meeting with staff to plan a public meeting to provide an overview of projects done in his career, and discuss the short and long term goals of Groton, and strategies to accomplish those goals.

Mystic Streetscape Phase II – still some punch list work to be done. Benches by the public restrooms need to be done.

The Planning Department is working on the draft of the Capital Improvement Project and hope to bring the document to Planning Commission in early November.

The Committee discussed the difficulty of traveling on Water Street in the morning due to delivery truck parking. Norris said they need to tell merchants that drivers can park over the sidewalk on the west side. Site line issues and striping of an area to discourage use as a parking space in downtown were discussed. Norris said he will discuss these items with the Traffic Commission.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn at 6:40 pm was made by Stebbins, seconded by Bates, so voted unanimously.

---

Prepared by: Debra L. Gilot  
Office Assistant III  
OPDS